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Australian War Memorial's Technology Collection received the Engineering Heritage International Marker

Refer to the link below for an interesting article, published in *Create* digital magazine, about the tale of Australia's military engineering history and the innovative design collection that received the Engineering Heritage International Marker during a ceremony attended by Engineers Australia CEO Romilly Madew and Engineering Heritage Australia Deputy Chair Richard Muncey.

<https://createdigital.org.au/preserving-military-engineering-heritage-for-future-generations/>

(From Richard Muncey)

Biography - Joseph Gardam

Joseph Gardam was a pioneering electrical engineer in Australia and a keen supporter of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

He arrived in Sydney on September 16, 1896, where he installed the Empire Electric Light Station which was the first electricity supply in Sydney. By 1901 he was Managing Engineer of the Empire Electric Light Company Ltd. He was also President of the NSW Electrical Association. In 1903 he was admitted as a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

In March 1908 he moved to Western Australia as Manager for Noyes Bros. He had earlier travelled to the State to install the first electricity scheme for Fremantle. He was a founding member of the WA Institution of Engineers in 1909 and became President in 1918.

In 1915 he established Gardam and Co and was advertising consulting services in electrical and general engineering but was still representing Noyes Bros. He also had a shopfront selling electrical goods and radios at 188 Murray Street, Perth.

He was a founding Associate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Australia and was admitted to full membership in 1920. He was also a member of the National Council of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. He was Chairman of the Western Australia Overseas Committee of the Institution of Electrical Engineers from 1937 to 1948.

He had a long association with the Royal Automobile Club in Western Australia holding the positions of President and Honorary Secretary. His business was acquired by Noyes Bros in 1937 and he became the local director, holding that position until his death. He died at his home at 2 Mounts Bay Road, Crawley on June 29, 1948.

For the detailed biography, please refer to the Engineering Heritage WA website:

[Joseph Gardam - Engineering Heritage Western Australia \(mywikis.wiki\)](http://mywikis.wiki/JosephGardam-EngineeringHeritageWesternAustralia)

(By Chris Fitzhardinge)

EHV / EHA - 2003 Discussion about the heritage/history dichotomy and ASHET by Ken McInnes

In June 2003, the "Australian Society for the History of Engineering and Technology" (ASHET) was first formed by Ian Arthur in Sydney, and there was concern that such a move would split the engineering heritage movement. Robin Black EHQ raised the first paper in Sep 2003, and Nigel Ridgeway EHSA and Michael Clarke EHS contributed to the discussion in Oct 2003. Brian Harper was the EHV chair / rep at the time, but left the EHA meeting before the discussion, but shared the papers to EHV.

ASHET has now folded. See my brief summary <<https://eoas.info/biogs/A002275b.htm>> with links to its archived webpages including its Newsletters.

ASHET, being Sydney centric, promoted the idea that other 'branches' could form in other states, under their auspices, but this didn't happen. However, an ad hoc informal email network of interstate people did liaise with Ian Arthur to share progress on projects.

AHSET successfully digitised the proceedings of the two Sydney based colonial engineering societies in 2008, and commenced creating an index to NSW patents, and some indexes are on their archived website. Creating a full national database/index to patents is still on a "wish list".

To match the digitising work by ASHET, I arranged for the digitisation of the "Victorian Institute of Engineers" proceedings, and EHV paid for it, from its 'trust funds' accrued from profits from its activities and EHA conferences held in Victoria. See <<http://hdl.handle.net/11343/104>> I also arranged for the digitisation of the "The Varsity Engineer" Melbourne University Engineering Societies proceedings and persuaded UniMelb School of Engineering to pay for it. See <<http://hdl.handle.net/11343/91280>> The "Victorian Institute of Surveyors" proceedings were also scoped, were unfunded, and at the time, the

Institution of Surveyors Victoria was packing its archives and moving - I am still hopeful that UniMelb will eventually digitise these and add to their digital repository.

I digitised the proceedings of the South Australian Institute of Engineers, see <<https://catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b1476070~S1>>, and assisted EHWA in getting the proceedings of the Western Australian Institution of Engineers digitised, see <<https://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1855461~S2>>, EA-WA paid for the digitisation. Queensland engineering societies' papers were put together in 1989 at UniQ by George and Prentice, <<https://eoas.info/bib/ASBS09910.htm>> and I have created a digital copy of their paper for reference and research. The only remaining collection not yet digitised is the Northern Engineering Institute of New South Wales, and Newcastle University have it on their 'to do' list. An article in the last / final ASHET newsletter, Vol.11 No.1 January 2018 summarised most of this work.

The Institution of Engineers Australia card index to colonial society proceedings was microfiched by EHA many decades ago. In 2018, I digitised OCRd and PDFd this index, and it is available through the EA resource centre. As are digitised copies of the 'Author and Subject indexes to IEAust publications 1920-1968', and the individual 1969, 71, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 indexes. From 1980 see Informit, and also see the CSIRO Australian Science Index 1957-1983.

Given that ASHET has folded, maybe it is time to think about who will pick up the pieces, help coordinate what has been done, what is to be done. EHA?

(By Ken McInnes)

Howard Springs - NT Heritage Trail: Historic Site



Staff Sergeant Jim Kerr RAE
and a D6 dozer. Photo F. Mears

Water was a continual problem for the township of Darwin which depended upon wells, rainwater tanks and bores to supply its needs. It was not until 1939 that the Services, hampered by water shortages on much needed construction sites, forced the rebuilding and expansion of the reticulation system from Howard Springs, 20 kilometres south east of Darwin.

Originally intended as a short term solution to water shortages whilst Manton Dam was being completed, it was decided to keep Howard Springs as an alternative water supply, "in view of the vulnerability; particularly to enemy attack of forty three miles of exposed twelve inch pipe line from Manton Gap to Darwin." The Administrator. CLA Abbott contended.

From January to June 1942, troops of the US 148th Field Artillery Regiment were camped at Howard Springs, remaining there until moving south with the personnel from its sister unit, the 147th Field Artillery Regiment.

After the Americans left Howard Springs, it was developed as one of a series of rest camps and could accommodate 120 service personnel at one time. The Allied Works Council, the 1st Australian Field Company RAE and the RAAF's No 9 Airfield Construction Squadron were involved in construction works from 1942 to 1944.

The marking "Aust. Field Coy. RAE AIF 1944" can still be seen on the top of the concrete wall on the western side of the pool.

Lt. Colonel L J . Haydon recalled that the rest camps were designed to alleviate the ever present problem of men "going Troppo" by providing "physical training, sports, and just swimming. Football was played in the mornings, cricket in the afternoons, and basketball at night...an oval was constructed at Howard Springs.'



Pumping out the site before construction.
Photo F. Mears

He further recounted that, "toward the end of the war, in 1944, the Australian Field Company of the Royal Australian Engineers constructed the present weir at Howard Springs. This was to pond the water to improve the place for swimming. After the war the weir created a good recreational swimming opportunity for Darwin civilians"

(By Michael Clarke)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.